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## DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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# NEWS LETTER

Aug. Sept. & Oct., 1959
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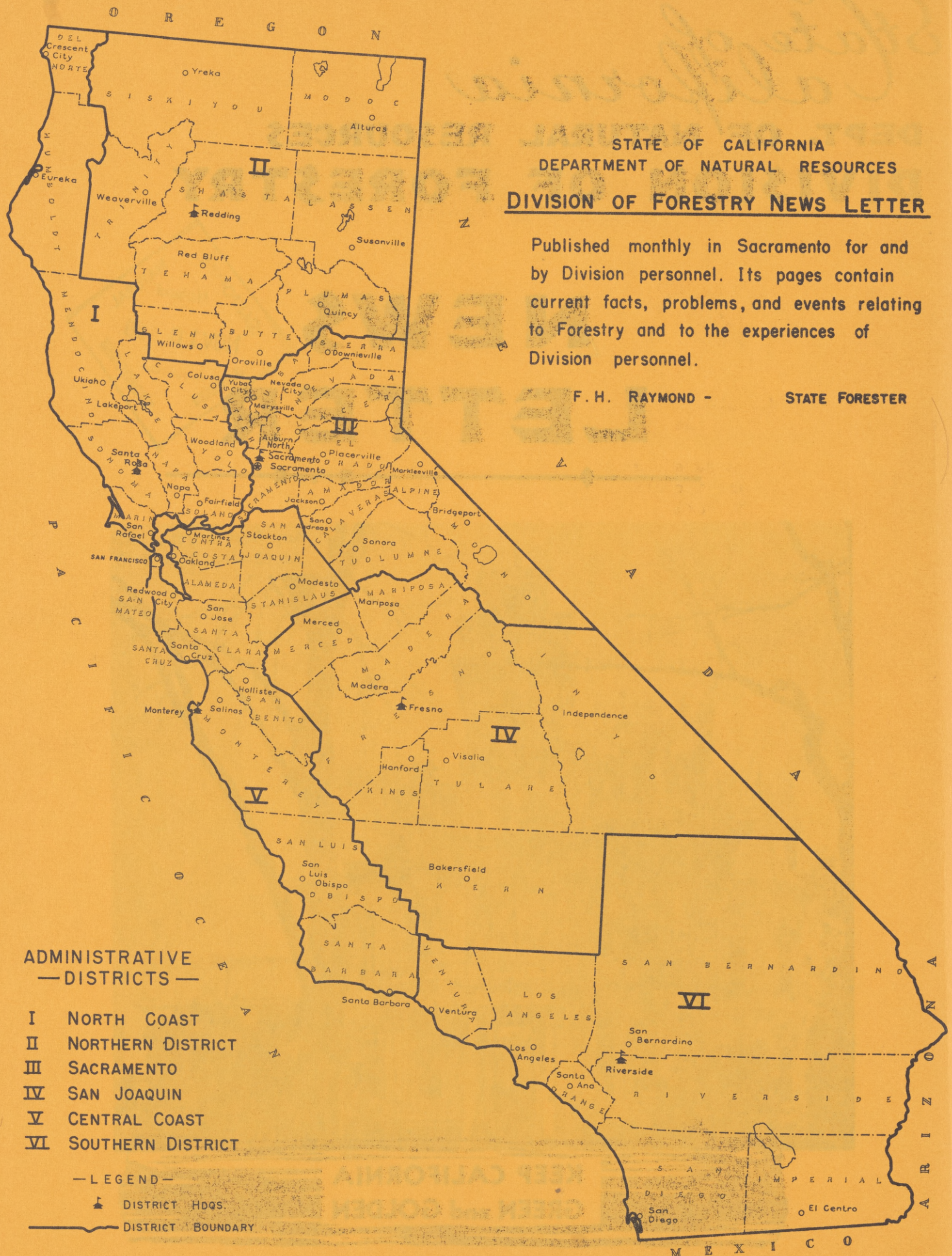
KEEP CALIFORNIA
GREEN and GOLDEN




STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# DIVISION OF FORESTRY NEWS LETTER

Published monthly in Sacramento for and by Division personnel. Its pages contain current facts, problems, and events relating to Forestry and to the experiences of Division personnel.

F. H. RAYMOND - STATE FORESTER

## ADMINISTRATIVE —DISTRICTS—

I NORTH COAST
II NORTHERN DISTRICT
III SACRAMENTO
IV SAN JOAQUIN
V CENTRAL COAST
VI SOUTHERN DISTRICT

—LEGEND—

DISTRICT HDQS.
DISTRICT BOUNDARY

COVER PICTURE - THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION, 16th and H Streets, Sacramento

The first official dwelling for the Governor of California was provided for and built in present Capitol Park in 1870. However, the substantial stone structure was prudently converted into the State Printing Plant and Armory and not finished as an ugly residence.

Again in 1899 funds were appropriated for an official mansion, but this time all plans were rejected as being unsatisfactory.

When another appropriation was made in 1903 the official committee settled the matter by purchasing the 16th and H Street residence for $32,500. The elaborate dwelling had been built by A. Gallatin in 1878. In 1903 it was owned by Joseph Steffens, and there his son Lincoln, later a well-known social reformer and literary figure, spent some of his boyhood years.

Governor George C. Pardee, the great leader in forest and water conservation, moved his family into the newly acquired official mansion on November 7, 1903.

Since that date numerous social events have been recorded in the history of the old structure and its temporary residents. The longest masters of the mansion were, of course, the Earl Warren family.

Mixed with the happy and elegant social functions down through the years have been repeated complaints of the shortcomings of the old structure as a properly dignified residence for the Governor of California. Twenty years ago the Fire Marshal declared it a firetrap. And the recent newspaper fun about the lady cat who, immediately after being put on the State payroll to discourage the cat-size rats, failed in her duty by becoming a mother was the latest twist to one of the common stories about the 81-year old Governor's Mansion.

It is possible that a new and modern official residence will someday be constructed. The matter is considered at practically every session of the Legislature.

STATE RANGER MEETING PICTURE - Sacramento, May 5, 1926

When Bert L. Werder, retired County Fire Warden of San Mateo recently asked for assistance in naming the old fire stompers pictured above, the effect of a third of a century of time became evident. Most of these men were dedicated pioneers in the business of organized fire protection in California. Yet the fixing of their names has been a difficult project.

The "Board of Forestry" organization of this year consisted of the State Forester, one Deputy (W. B. Rider, not present), two inspectors, a nurseryman, and several temporary lookouts (not present). The Remainder were all "Fire Rangers." Each one alone represented a complete County Unit organization, generally with his wife performing as the unpaid, unsung, dispatcher. Since the county boundary and county money created the sharpest unit distinction at this time, the several county fire wardens were as much at home in this group as the State Fire Rangers themselves.

The photo was taken at the west entrance of the Capitol, probably in mid-morning. No doubt, Governor Friend W. Richardson had just addressed the group.

Starting with the tall men in the top row we have at the left end, C. Stowell Smith, one of the forest school boys assigned by Gifford Pinchot to California about the time the U. S. Forest Service was created in 1905 (as was M.B. Pratt). In 1926 Smith was Secretary of the Cal. White and Sugar Pine Association. Next, E. Walton Hedges, San Benito County Fire Warden, later member of the State Board of Forestry; (3), Earl T. Barron recently Tuolumne County Supervisor, later Ranger and Assistant Fire Chief of the Division; (4), Wm. H. Jordan, Special State Ranger of the East Bay Water Company; (5) Inspector O. E. Fowler; (6) Dan B. Ruth (called by Governor James Rolph, "the tall Sycamore of the Yuba"); (7) Taylor Day; (8) Inspector Alvin E. Frost (one of first four State Rangers); (9) Ben Richardson (Day and Richardson were later sheriffs of Lake and Siskiyou Counties respectively); (10) Wm. F. Sharp; (11) A. K. Herbert; (12) (tall man at rear) Bruce Hufford; (13) Joe Davis (Los Angeles County); (14) E. B. Gardner (Marin County); (15) W. J. "Doc" Hufford; (16) Everett Roach; (17) C. H. "Chet" Merrill (Humboldt Redwood Reforestation Association); (18) R. E. Roach; (19) Ray W. Doney (nurseryman).

Middle row, left, "Doc" Locke of Lockford, San Joaquin County, (2) John Crangle; (3) Roscoe Weaver; (4) Lee H. Holland; (5) Woodbridge Metcalf (He had been the first California Extension Forester about two months when picture was taken); (6) L. T. Moore; (7) Spence D. Turner (Forester and Fire Warden of Los Angeles County); (8) Ed. P. Biggs; (9) J. Ed Watts; (10) Lee L. "Red" Myers.

Bottom row, left, Bert L. Werder (San Mateo County); (2) John McGlinchy (Alameda); (3) Geo. H. Leverett; (4) Willis G. Corbitt (Humboldt Redwood Reforestation Association); (5) Ed J. Nelander; (6) Andrew Schaefer; (7) Merritt B. Pratt, State Forester; (8) Evan Joy; (9) H. Ray, "Dad" Powers; (10) Jack P. Yost; (11) Geo. I. Gillette.

C. R. Clar

## STATE FORESTER ATTENDS ASSOCIATION MEETING

State Forester Raymond attended the Annual Meeting of the Association of State Foresters at Stowe, Vermont, on October 8, 9, 10. In addition to the crowded agenda of business before the group, he applied himself to obtaining some valuable impressions as the guest of the forest officials in New England States. In New York State, where it is well known that the vast area of State Forest is managed essentially as a park, he was able to investigate the efficient handling of the large population of forest users. Camping, picnicking, and hiking is a popular and necessary type of recreation for the urban population. Mr. Raymond was certain that he was given a glimpse of the future fate of the California Division of Forestry, and that was precisely the reason for his concentration upon that type of forest land use and management. He found the facilities provided by the State Forester's organization for a nominal fee to be simple yet adequate. The acquisition of water was obviously much less of a problem in the areas he visited than for most California campgrounds because lakes and streams are more numerous there. The New York organization protects some 22 million forested acres from fire.

In Vermont he was impressed by the amazing effectiveness of a city-owned watershed which is by State law placed under the supervision of the State Forester. Where once there was little water of poor quality produced, now an excellent flow of fine water is derived from the watershed. During the 35 years of management, a thrifty crop of conifers has grown on the land.

Not so cheerful was the scene around Bar Harbor, Maine, which suffered disastrous fires a few years ago. Many Division people will remember that we received movies of that fire for educational purposes promptly after it occurred. One large portion of the burn, which had formerly supported coniferous trees, is now bare rock with a few shrubs. The humus collection of centuries was completely consumed by the fire. Only by importing new soil can another crop of timber conceivably be generated again.

## CLAUDE RAYMOND TILLOTSON, 1883-1959

Many employees of the Division will be saddened to learn that old friend "Tillie" died unexpectedly at his home in Albany on October 27. C. R. Tillotson came to California in 1936 to succeed Jay H. Price as "Clarke-McNary Inspector." During the following ten years he became the congenial friend of all the field and office personnel throughout the Division. He often said that he was essentially a State Forestry employee. This was an extremely important period of development for the Division and Tillie devoted most of his time and effort in helping shape the direction of growth.

In 1946, after 39 years in the U.S.F.S., Tillie retired. After that he occasionally joined Division men on oral board hearings or such committees as the Small Woodlands Council.

In his earlier years, Tillie had spent much time on cooperative work throughout the entire Nation and authored numerous papers and bulletins on farm forestry and similar subjects. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1883. He leaves his wife, Ethel, son Daniel, daughter, Mrs. Ann Klopfer, and two sisters, and certainly many sorrowful old friends across the land.

RE: COVER LAST ISSUE

The photograph on the cover of the last issue of the News Letter is Lewis Moran our new Chief Deputy State Forester.

Our apologies to Lew and to the readers of News Letter for this oversight.

JULY ACTIVITIES

FIRE CONTROL - FIRE SUPPRESSION

Severe weather conditions prevailed throughout the month of July which created dangerous forest fire conditions that ranged in the critical to extreme zone. Activity was very heavy; large fires occurred in almost all sections of California from the State of Oregon to the Mexican border.

A large fire in the Crofton Hills, five miles east of Redlands, San Bernardino County, cost the life of Don Doughty of Upland, an aerial tanker pilot who crashed into a ridge while attempting to drop a load of borate.

Another airplane crashed near Groveland, Tuolumne County, taking the lives of two men and seriously injured a third, when the tail controls were fouled by a parachute in an attempt to drop parts to a disabled fire truck.

During July, there were 742 forest fires that burned 46,259 acres on those lands of State responsibility. Listed below for comparison purposes, are the number of fires and acres burned during July for the last five years:

| | No. of Fires | Acres Burned |
|---|---|---|
| 1958 | 710 | 25,059 |
| 1957 | 499 | 21,183 |
| 1956 | 404 | 3,346 |
| 1955 | 376 | 7,263 |
| 1954 | 549 | 76,854 |

For the period January 1 to July 31 the Division of Forestry has experienced 1,823 fires that burned 73,690 acres.

FIRE PROTECTION: STATE-FEDERAL COOPERATION

The "Green Book" (State Cooperation crew organization) for fiscal year 1959-60 was distributed.

Field inspections of State cooperative crews were made in company with a representative from the Sierra Cascade District on the Klamath, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, and Shasta-Trinity National Forests.

Several days were spent on U. S. Forest Service fires on the Tahoe and Shasta-Trinity Forests.

FIRE PROTECTION: STATE-COUNTY COOPERATION

The State Forester was represented at a meeting in Redding with an engineer from the Board of Underwriters of the Pacific and the Tehama County Ranger Unit to discuss ways of improving county-financed agricultural fire protection.

The Division of Forestry was also represented at the Northern California Civil Defense and Disaster Association meeting in Concord, and the Fire Inspectors section of the Northern Division of the California Fire Chiefs Association meeting in Stockton.

The Solano County Fire Coordinator has proposed a mutual aid agreement between the County of Solano and the California Division of Forestry.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT - PUBLIC LAW 566

To date, the Division of Forestry has completed planning on eighteen P.L. 566 projects. Additional fire protection was not recommended on twelve of the eighteen projects. A minimum of tanker fills at dam sites and firebreaks around the places where people will congregate, at an unknown cost as yet, was recommended on three projects. The remaining three projects necessitated additional fire protection.

The total dollar value of fire protection recommended, federal, private, and State, thus far amounts to $1,599,612, of which the Division of Forestry did not participate in $127,100 (Arroyo Grande), not including the above-mentioned minimum tanker fills, etc., around dam sites.

Applications have been filed on forty-five projects to date. Tentative work plans have been completed on eleven projects, and the final work plan has been completed on six projects, four of which have been approved for construction.

In addition to the above projects, twenty applications are being prepared at the present time. Of the twenty project applications being prepared, we have initiated a reconnaissance to determine whether or not fire protection would be considered in the development of the watershed work plan on seven. Of these, seven projects initiated, three have been completed and have indicated that fire protection planning will be needed.

In addition to the above P.L. 566 projects, we have taken action on sixteen related projects in cooperation with the U. S. Engineers Department, Soil Conservation Districts under AB-1144, U. S. Forest Service, and the Department of Water Resources. Fire protection thus far recommended amounts to $213,333.34 for all fire protection agencies concerned.

FIRE WEATHER AND BURNING INDEX

A joint inspection trip of weather stations in the Klamath National Forest was made with the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station man assigned to U. S. Forest Service weather inspections. During this same trip, the stations in Siskiyou County were checked.

Three days were spent on weather station inspections in Napa and Lake Ranger Units. This trip completed the inspection of all District I weather stations for 1959.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Shell Oil Company, cooperating with the Division of Forestry and the California Fire Prevention Committee, has devoted their entire outdoor advertising space on 900 billboards in California to forest fire prevention using a Disney cartoon with the main theme, "Don't Be A Flamethrower." These will remain on display in prominent places throughout California during the month of August.

Because of extreme weather and critical forest fire conditions, special emphasis was placed on forest fire prevention activities.

An appeal was made to all timber operators for extra care with fire in their operations. Meetings were held with representatives of the railroads operating in California to develop improved methods in their operations which would reduce the possibility of fires starting on or near their rights-of-way in the rural and wildland areas.

News editors were made aware of the seriousness of the forest fire situation and contributed valuable time and space to editorials and news items which included fire prevention.

An Administrative directive was issued to all field personnel of the Division outlining a concentrated, impartial program of enforcement of the forest and fire laws in response to Governor Brown's concern over the number of fires caused by illegal activities or operations.

STATE FORESTS

Aborigine Lumber Company of Fort Bragg, California, was the successful bidder on 408,000 board feet of decked logs on the Jackson State Forest in Mendocino County. The sale was held July 2 in Fort Bragg. Aborigine Lumber bid $28.00 per thousand board feet for redwood, white fir, Bishop pine, and hemlock logs, and $38.00 per thousand board feet for Douglas fir logs. This was the first large sale produced from young growth timber on the Jackson State Forest. The logs were cut from an area in Caspar Creek during an experiment and demonstration in the management of young growth timber. The logging was done by Conservation Camp crews. This allowed close control of felling and skidding. The area has been extensively sampled and many trees permanently marked and recorded. The results of this experiment will be helpful in developing a timber management program for the extensive areas of young timber on the Jackson Forest.

New aerial photography of Jackson State Forest is being flown by Bay Area Aerial Survey of Fremont. This photography with a scale of 1:12,000 will be valuable for resource inventory, protection, mapping, and historical purposes. Delivery of the new photography is scheduled for mid-August. Similar photography for the Latour State Forest in eastern Shasta County is planned for this summer or early fall. Invitations to bid were sent out in July.

PEST CONTROL

Representatives of the Division attended the meeting of the Disease Committee of the California Forest Pest Control Action Council at Chilcoot, Plumas County. The purpose of the meeting was to review the problems of controlling dwarfmistletoe, a parasitic disease of the coniferous trees--in this case pine trees. It was the concensus of the committee that research was needed to obtain more knowledge of the disease. The Working Committee of the Council also recommended to the Research Advisory Committee of the State Board of Forestry to consider a research project about "X" disease attacking ponderosa pine in Southern California in its over-all state-wide forestry research projects.

NURSERY

During the 1958-59 season the four nurseries of the Division distributed 3,060,000 trees. This is some 103,000 less than 1957-58, the difference caused by two possible factors: fewer Douglas fir trees available from the nurseries and a prolonged period of drought in the late fall. The income amounted to $42,720; and in addition

the Division received $25,000 reimbursement from the Forest Service through the Clarke-McNary, Section 4, agreement.

The Davis headquarters forest nursery processed through its seed plant approximately 3,224 pounds of seed with an estimated value of $16,000. This seed is the end product of 2,018 sacks of cones collected by the Division's field crews including inmate crews from the Conservation Camps. The 1958 crop of cones appeared to be good in some areas, but the yield of quality seed was poor because of heavy infestations of cone and seed insects.

## REFORESTATION

Limited reforestation projects were conducted during 1958-59 on three State Forests, Jackson in Mendocino; Latour in Shasta County; and Mountain Home in Tulare County, using 21,000 trees. On Division demonstration areas throughout the State 25,800 trees were planted.

Assembly Bill No. 2022 passed during the 1957 Session of the Legislature authorized the State Forester to conduct studies of reforestation methods and procedures. In accordance with this authorization, a cooperative study was established on the property of the Calaveras Land and Timber Corporation in Calaveras County, in which 6,100 trees were planted and 21 pounds of ponderosa pine and white fir seed were sown in plots arranged to determine the most suitable species, age, and size of planting stock, and the best method of seeding. Recently developed fertilizer pellets planted with the seedlings were also included in the testing. Inmates of a Conservation Camp composed the planting crews.

Other reforestation studies were initiated on the three State Forests mentioned above and the Loghry State Forest located on the Santa Cruz-Santa Clara county line. These included testing methods of brush removal and rodent control and comparative survival of different species and age classes of nursery stock.

## RANGE IMPROVEMENT

The Division participated with the University of California and the State Department of Public Health in a study to determine the affect of controlled burning on smog occurrence.

The Division provided the lower levels of Red Top Lookout in Madera County for a headquarters and laboratory and established the communications network for the study in addition to general administration of fire safety for the controlled burn held July 26.

Prior to the burn, Division personnel assisted the University of California School of Forestry in determining the weight of fuel to be burned.

## CONSERVATION NEEDS INVENTORY

The State Forester was represented at the State Committee meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Needs project in Berkeley on July 10. The Division, amongst many federal and State agencies, is cooperating in this two-year project of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This project contemplates an inventory of what conservation needs might exist between now and 1975. The work is on schedule and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The information from this inventory should prove helpful in development of public programs and land-use planning.

ENGINEERING

Bids were opened for the Woodlands Forest Fire Station combination barracks and messhall on July 23rd. The contract was awarded to Hamilton and Francis of Santa Rosa.

Final inspection was held and the contract work accepted on the Fortuna shop, compound paying, and the Assistant Ranger's residence.

The building at Orange Forest Fire Station was completed which incorporates a warehouse, automotive shop, and equipment storage.

The special use permit has been approved for the Washington Ridge Youth Camp in Nevada County.

The Kings County map has been started.

The buildings have been completed at the Rincon Forest Fire Station. This consists of a combination barracks-equipment building and messhall.

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

FIRE CONTROL - FIRE SUPPRESSION

The month of August was characterized by very critical fire weather during the first two decades and a somewhat relieved situation during the third decade. This favorable relief in weather for California's fire fighters was brought about by two storm type frontal systems. The first moved into the State from the north, actual origination was in the gulf of Alaska, and while the violent effects, the snow, rain, thunder, lightning, and record cold temperatures were confined to the Cascade and northern Sierra-Nevada Ranges, a general cooling settled over almost the entire State. The second disturbance almost immediately followed the first and came into California from the south. It started off the coast of lower California and began moving northward bringing moist, warm, tropical air into Southern California and eventually throughout the entire State.

While thunderstorm conditions during these storms were quite general and ranged from a light pattern on the central coastal mountains, heavy along the Sierra-Nevada and Southern California mountains to very severe in the Cascade Mountain Ranges, no major fires occurred due to the precipitation accompanying these storms.

Listed below, for comparison purposes, are the number of fires and acres burned during August of this year and each August for the last five years.

| | No. of Fires | Acres Burned |
|---|---|---|
| 1959 | 536 | 75,384 |
| 1958 | 631 | 18,103 |
| 1957 | 554 | 31,163 |
| 1956 | 417 | 20,950 |
| 1955 | 457 | 16,265 |
| 1954 | 397 | 17,319 |

Thirteen U. S. Forest Service men, six California Division of Forestry men, and three Conservation Camp inmates were burned this month on the 1,585 acre "Decker

Fire" in Riverside County, just above Lake Elsinore. Five of the U. S. Forest Service men died as a result of these burns.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT - PUBLIC LAW 566

The Division is presently engaged in various stages of planning on eleven Public Law 566 projects.

A reconnaissance investigation of the proposed Black Butte Reservoir, in cooperation with the U. S. Corps of Engineers, was completed during this report period. An agreement with the Bureau of Land Management for fire protection on the Adobe Creek P.L. 566 project was consummated. Agreements with the U. S. Forest Service relative to this project were negotiated and are presently at the signature stage. An agreement with the sponsors has been sent to the field for negotiations.

The State Forester was represented at the monthly State Soil Conservation Commission meeting and the Planning Progress meeting held once a month to evaluate planning effort. The Planning Progress meetings are attended by representatives of all interested agencies.

COMMUNICATIONS - RADIO

Activities during August were directed toward finishing details associated with radio vault rental agreements and operational policies connected thereto.

In the interim two short field trips were made; one in connection with Standard Oil Company locating at Joaquin Ridge in Fresno County; the other in connection with the Western Telephone Company locating at Cahto Mountain.

FIRE WEATHER AND BURNING INDEX

An inspection trip of weather stations in the Klamath National Forest was carried out as a mutual cooperative project with the Forest Service weather station inspector. In addition, the three Siskiyou County stations were inspected.

Summary of timber build-ups and the 12 sample Burning Index areas received in Sacramento daily was carried out for the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station for use in their evaluation of the severity of the fire season.

Consultations on problems concerning the construction of the new lot of 12-volt wind counters were carried on with personnel of Vallecito Conservation Camp.

FIRE PROTECTION: STATE-COUNTY COOPERATION

Leaflets on precautions to be taken in controlling liquid petroleum gas fires and gasoline fires, were obtained from the fire prevention section of Standard Oil Company and distributed to the field. The Schedule A Coordinator and a representative from the automotive section spent some time with Ranger Campbell in Butte County drawing up specifications and making some preliminary estimates on a new fire truck to be built up for use in the Schedule A program in Butte County. Arrangements were completed with the surplus property section of the California Disaster Office to obtain a tanker for Madera County. Information on changes in fire protection district "acts" was obtained from the Legislative Bill Room and distributed to Ranger Units.

## RESEARCH

The month of August found the air tankers being used on initial attack on forest fires in District I. While generally successful, the air tanker must still provide answers to many questions included in the objectives of the program.

Related to the use of air tankers has been the use of borate and bentonite fire retardants. There have been conflicting stories on the use of bentonite. While this material has generally been doing a good job of retarding fires in District I and on some fires in District VI, there have been some observations of ineffective drops. As yet, we do not know why bentonite has failed in some cases. Plans are currently being made to conduct an experiment in October to determine the answers to certain of these problems. It is desirable to find out the best type of tank and gate design for air tankers, the best drop height and speed, the effect of different winds, the importance of the weight of the retardant slurry, and the importance of the fiscosity of the slurry relative to the drop pattern.

There have been sixteen days of thunderstorm activity in July and August in the Eagle Lake area of Lassen County, site of the 1959 lightning modification program. On eight of these days the thunder clouds have been treated with silver iodide from ground generators while the other eight days have not been treated and have been used for the control of statistical data for the experiment. While conclusions cannot be drawn at this time, the data suggests the same information that we received last year: treatment has resulted in increased lightning and also in increased rainfall in the target area.

Preliminary information has been received from the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station relative to fire-climate studies. Paraphrasing the progress reports on these studies:

> Experience and research has taught fire fighters a good deal about wildland fires. Application of this knowledge to control of fire is frequently hampered by lack of information about the behavior of fire-climate in certain specific places -- how wind, temperature, humidity, and fuel moisture are affected by topography, water bodies, season, and the fire itself.

To obtain this needed information, the Station has started studies of fire climate patterns in specific areas. One of these areas is DeLuz Canyon in San Diego County. The objective of this survey is to determine the fire-climate patterns experienced in the DeLuz area during the fire season and to study the occurrence of down-canyon afternoon winds. This area was selected because it has burned over in 1949, and during the course of the fire some of the most extreme fire behavior imaginable was observed.

To date, only one period of down-canyon afternoon winds have been observed, and no definite conclusions can be made regarding their occurrence. There are indications, however, that these winds do not have to be the cool marine air spilling over the coastal mountain ranges. There is reason to believe that these down-canyon winds can also be related to periods of higher temperatures and low humidities in east facing canyons, and also to certain upper air conditions which have not as yet been thoroughly analyzed. It is hoped that additional data in the DeLuz area, as well as elsewhere, will make it possible to understand the mechanism responsible for winds shifting down-canyon during the afternoon and to foretell when they will occur.

## FIRE PREVENTION

A special appeal was made to all members of the California Fire Prevention Committee by letter, urging each of them to utilize to the fullest their available media for forest fire prevention because of critical fire conditions.

Exhibits at County and District Fairs received special attention this month throughout the State, and all available portable exhibits were used at least once. Preparation of the State Fair exhibit was a major activity.

During the first part of the month when fire conditions were extremely critical, press, radio, television, and other informational services were provided State-wide with materials designed for use by these media in developing a greater awareness of need for care with fire.

Shell Oil Company displayed a forest fire prevention poster designed by Walt Disney on 1125 roadside signs in California during the month. This company donates this service as a member of the California Fire Prevention Committee. Large roadside signs donated by Foster and Kleiser were prominently displayed over the State and the spectacular donated by Pacific Outdoor Advertising was moved twice in Southern California.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Plans for training sessions on law enforcement procedures and techniques as it affects the Division's functions were formulated during the month. Two three-day training sessions will be held during February and March of 1960, with plans to make this an annual training session in law enforcement thereafter.

A uniform system of enforcement of State fire laws in timber harvesting areas was put into operation in order to reduce the incidence of man-caused fires.

A new system and procedure for the appointment of voluntary fire wardens by the State Forester was instituted on a State-wide basis.

The State Forester has formally designated 314 CDF employees as peace officers under new procedures initiated pursuant to Section 4011, Public Resources Code, for purposes of enforcement of State and county fire laws.

The Attorney General filed suit on two cases for recovery of fire suppression costs expended by the CDF in a sum totalling $7,149.21. Fourteen cases involving possible civil liability for suppression costs were processed during August for future review by the Attorney General.

A meeting was held with representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Sacramento on the subject of the Division resuming the function of issuing permits to burn on Indian lands.

## STATE FORESTS

The Board of Forestry made a tour of the Jackson State Forest and held a meeting at the new Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp on August 4th. Points of interest to the Board included an experiment in logging of young-growth redwood, the Parlin Fork nursery, and results of a recent old-growth timber sale. Most of the meeting was devoted to reports and discussion of operations of State Forests.

## FOREST PRACTICES

On August 5th and 6th the Board visited Humboldt County. There the Board saw how the 1955 flood had caused slides and blockage of streams in Bear and Dinner Creeks. A young-growth thinning plot conducted by the Pacific Lumber Company near Shively was examined. The last day was spent on the operations of the Simpson Redwood Company out of Korbel viewing rehabilitation of brushland to timber, access road development, salvage of timber from cut-over lands, and selective logging in virgin stands.

Two alternate plans, one for Southern Pacific Land Company in Siskiyou County, and the other for the Mary Jane Christmas Tree Farm in Nevada County, were approved by the Board of Forestry on August 4th. Both plans provided for a deviation from the cutting provision of the North Sierra Forest Practice Rules. The former plan was for thinning and stand improvement cutting in immature white fir stands on an experimental basis while the latter plan was to improve an area for intensive Christmas tree production.

## SERVICE FORESTRY

The California Agricultural Stabilization Committee met in Berkeley on August 6, 1959, to discuss program development. A representative of the State Forester and Division of Soil Conservation attended. No major changes are contemplated in the 1960 Agricultural Conservation Program. The Conservation Reserve-Soil Bank program will be smaller next year due to congressional action.

## INSECT CONTROL

The insect Committee of the California Forest Pest Control Action Council met at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite National Park, at which representatives of the Division were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to view the control project of lodgepole needle miner. This insect is making ghost forests of 50,000 acres of high use recreational lands. The project involves the spraying by helicopter of 4,000 acres. The committee also discussed State-wide forest insect conditions and made plans to report on such at the annual meeting of the Council in late October.

## REFORESTATION

The annual compilation of information from field personnel on State-wide planting activities for the 1958-59 season indicates that a total of 3,477 acres were planted or seeded. This is nearly twice the area treated in 1957-58, an encouraging indication of increased interest in forest regeneration. This acreage, however, is only a token amount of the nearly two million acres of non-productive forest land in need of rehabilitation, and the current fire season so far has added another 22,000 acres. In spite of increased interest, it would appear present reforestation activities are not taking care of annual losses. Of the 3,477 acres planted or seeded, members of forest industry treated 649 acres, and individuals, clubs, and associations accounted for 2,563 acres. Two lumber companies employed the use of mechanical tree planters on a limited scale and were well pleased with the efficiency of the machines as compared with hand planting. A utility company in the southern Sierra planted 20 acres using trees raised in the company's nursery near Shaver Lake, Fresno County. Plantings for windbarriers in desert, valley, and foothill areas amounted to 431 acres or an estimated 180 miles of trees planted in double rows on 10-foot by 10-foot spacings.

A second survival count was made of trees planted for the cooperative reforestation studies project initiated in March on land of a timber holding company in Calaveras County. Survival was surprisingly good despite exceptional summer heat and drought; ponderosa pine seedlings planted as one-year old stock averaged 79%, and two-year seedlings of the same species 71%. As competing vegetation had been removed by bulldozer, moisture was still present at a depth of between six and ten inches in the soil.

ENGINEERING

An inspection was made of the proposed Spruce Grove Conservation Camp in Lake County and was considered highly desirable by the Department of Corrections and Forestry, providing an adequate water supply can be obtained. This site is approximately 9 miles from Middletown and 9 miles from Clear Lake.

On August 13th Mr. Peterson, accompanied by Director McGee and Deputy Dunow and their staffs, together with Senator Teale, visited some sites for the conservation center in the Sonora area. They met with members of the Chamber of Commerce and Realty Board. A closer look at more desirable sites will be made by Correction's staff representatives.

Meetings have been held with the Department of Corrections and the Camp Rangers from the District offices on the design of the mobile camps. Trailer representatives have also been contacted regarding the submitting of plans and estimates for the three trailer camps.

Discussions have been held with the Department of Corrections on the new reimbursement rate for inmates assigned to conservation camps. This is in line with the legislation passed last year.

Bids were opened for the relocation of two residences at Davis, the low bidder was Jay Bailey Contractors of Woodland, with a bid of $26,466.

During this month the Conservation Camp crews spent a total of 187,962 man hours fighting fires, and the CYA Camp crews 6,814 man hours on fires.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

FIRE SUPPRESSION

Except for several days of strong northerly winds, during the last period of September, fire weather was quite favorable. Temperatures were generally below normal and humidities generally above normal.

In comparison to a normal September the over-all fire activity was exceptionally good, occurrence was approximately three-fourths the average, while acreage burned was approximately one-fifth the average. The largest fire of the month was the 3,200 acre fire in eastern Tehama Ranger Unit. Seventy per cent of the area burned on this fire was timbered land.

In addition to the five U. S. Forest Service men who died in August as a result of burns received on the 1,585 acre "Decker Fire", John Guthrie, Fire Truck Driver for the California Division of Forestry, died as the result of a heart attack on September 14th. John Guthrie, along with twenty-five others, U. S. Forest Service,

State Division of Forestry and Conservation Camp Inmates, were engulfed in flames at three separate locations and within an hour and a half period.

FIRE PROTECTION: STATE-FEDERAL COOPERATION

The State Forester's representative accompanied Jack Wood, CM-2 representative in charge of Cooperative Fire Control of the U. S. Forest Service Washington office, Bill Branch and Rupe Asplund, of the U. S. Forest Service Regional office, on a two-weeks' tour of the State to acquaint the Washington representatives with the varied problems confronting the wildland fire protection agencies in California.

FIRE PROTECTION: STATE-COUNTY COOPERATION

Representatives of the Division of Forestry met with Walter B. Hiller, who represents a group of citizens in the Del Monte Forest Area at Monterey. Mr. Hiller, and the people who he represents, are interested in forming a fire protection district in Del Monte Forest and their present proposal is that the Division of Forestry operate the fire protection district for them on a contract basis.

A meeting was held with the Butte County Ranger to assist him with some specifications for a new fire truck to be purchased for the county of Butte.

The State Forester's representative and the Sonoma County Ranger met with a representative from the County Manager's office in Sonoma County to discuss rural area fire problems in Sonoma County.

The Division of Forestry was represented at the four-day meeting of the California State Firemen's Association at Hoberg's Resort in Lake County. There were 652 members and their wives registered at this meeting. There were 132 voting delegates with a fairly even distribution from the Northern, Central, and Southern districts.

FOREST FIRE RESEARCH

At a meeting of CALAIRCO (California Air-Attack Committee) the California Division of Forestry and the U. S. Forest Service made plans to jointly conduct a series of tests with air tankers and fire retardents in October. Bentonite, a new fire retardent, has been in widespread use this fire season; however, conflicting reports of its effectiveness on forest fires, in relation to borate, indicate that controlled tests are needed to determine if problems do exist. Aircraft of all sizes from the small N3N (Navy biplane) carrying 180 gallons, to the large PBY (Navy amphibious patrol bomber) and B25, carrying over 1,000 gallons, will be used to make "Cascade" drops over a prepared grid network at various speeds and altitudes. The concentration and pattern of the retardent material will determine the relative effectiveness of each. The fire retarding qualities have already been determined by a series of laboratory and field tests and by use on wild fires.

The Division's experimental initial attack "Task Force" of four air tankers completed its tour of duty in the north coast district and will now move into Southern California for the remainder of the fire season. The group spent six weeks in the Central Sierra district prior to going to the north coast. By using the same pilots, aircraft, and photographers, in three distinct and different areas, certain variables may be minimized so that a more objective evaluation may be made.

The operational phase of the lightning modification program in Lassen County was terminated on September 25. The Experiment Station in Berkeley will now analyze the data and determine whether or not the silver iodide nuclei produced by ground generators have any significant effect on cloud-ground lightning. Results of this analysis probably will not be available until early 1960.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT - PUBLIC LAW 566

The Division of Forestry and the U. S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the U. S. Corps of Engineers, prepared a reconnaissance study to determine the effects of the proposed Black Butte Reservoir and Dam on the responsibilities of the Forest Service and the Division of Forestry, including its effect on fire protection. Data was also included that would assist the Corps in determining the effects of the forestry phases, including fire protection, on the life and maintenance of the project.

The State Forester's office was represented at the California Flood Control Conference and at the monthly 'Public Law 566 (as amended) Progress Meeting' of all agencies interested in Public Law 566 planning effort.

COMMUNICATIONS - RADIO

Agreements have been completed or are in process which will allow the Border Patrol, F.B.I., County of Monterey and the Department of Natural Resources to install or expand their communication facilities at the Division of Forestry Lookout sites.

CIVIL DEFENSE

The restoration of a second jeep for Madera County Civil Defense is nearing completion. The work is being done by Madera Ranger Unit, County paid, personnel.

FIRE PREVENTION

In addition to the large Division display at the State Fair, displays were exhibited at several County Fairs throughout the State, including two of the largest, Los Angeles, and Fresno.

The continuity script to be used in the production of this years television and theater motion picture materials was developed and is ready for final scripting.

Many letters, reports, and calls have been received indicating the extent of cooperation by the California Fire Prevention Committee during the month, in response to our urgent request for additional assistance because of critical fire weather conditions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

An accusation filed under the Administrative Procedure Act earlier this year to suspend or revoke the timber operator's permit of Francis P. McGarr for violation of forest practice rules is to be dismissed because of subsequent compliance with rules. The Attorney General's Office in September was preparing three additional accusations against timber operators.

A program for the issuance of State permits to burn on Indian Lands protected by the Division of Forestry under agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs was instituted.

A program for fingerprinting of all Division of Forestry personnel designated as peace officers as required by State law was initiated.

On civil cost collections exclusive of railroad fires the following actions were taken: demands for payment, 1; payments, 1; cases processed to Attorney General's office, 3; and suits filed, 2. A total of $28,774.89 in suppression costs was involved. Additionally, four cases were closed out by the Division for lack of liability.

## FOREST PRACTICE

Four alternate plans were approved by the Board of Forestry at its meeting in Dinuba on September 18. Three plans for areas in Nevada County owned by J. Hofert Company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and Jack E. Larson, permit a deviation from the cutting requirements of the North Sierra Forest Practice Rules to improve forest growth for the production of Christmas trees. The fourth plan for certain lands in Humboldt County owned by Simpson Redwood Company allows a departure from the cutting practices of the Redwood Forest Practice Rules to salvage timber that would otherwise be lost, reduce the fire hazards in the area, and restore cutover land to maximum timber production.

The State Forester in September began deeming expired the permits of timber operators who in 1959 failed to file annual notice of timber operations as provided under Section 4967 and 4968 of the Public Resources Code.

## STATE FORESTS

The State Board of Forestry made a tour of Mountain Home State Forest in Tulare County on September 17 to become better acquainted with the operations of this recreation-demonstration forest and the experimental work being conducted there.

New aerial photography of Latour State Forest in Shasta County was flown in September by Delano Studios and Aerial Surveys of Portland, Oregon. This photography at a scale of 1:12,000 will be a valuable tool in forest inventories, protection, mapping, experimental projects, and serve as a permanent historical record of forest conditions.

## NURSERY

The 1959-60 nursery price list and order blanks listing trees available from the Division's four forest nurseries were distributed to more than 6,000 individuals, governmental agencies, and private concerns. Four and a half million trees are available for the coming planting season beginning about November 15, 1959; already 570,000 trees have been ordered. Seed collection activities have commenced, and 546 sacks of cones have been received at the Davis headquarters forest nursery seed processing plant. Fire crews, technical personnel, and conservation camp crews comprise the collection force.

## REFORESTATION

The cooperative reforestation studies project on land of a timber holding corporation in Calaveras County is being continued. Plots in bear clover, a dense ground cover seriously deterring establishment of forest reproduction, were sprayed with herbicides using mechanical equipment in an attempt to find an economical means of control.

## RESEARCH

The Advisory Committee on Forest Research to the Board of Forestry convened in Berkeley on September 15th to develop recommendations for the research program of the Division for fiscal year 1960-61. A number of new projects were proposed -- forest fuel moisture, fire retardents, logging slash, emergency revegetation, dwarf-mistletoe, rodent control, "X" disease of pine, forest site, direct seeding, and slash disposal effects on water yield. This proposal, which involves increasing the research program from its present level of $128,000 to $292,000 was presented to and approved by the Board of Forestry at its meeting in Dinuba on September 18th.

## RANGE IMPROVEMENT

A representative of the State Forester attended the meeting of the Wild Game and Public Land Use Committee of the California Farm Bureau Federation in Berkeley on September 15. At this meeting policies and basic resolutions regarding range improvement were reviewed; recent legislation and a number of other minor matters relating to the Division of Forestry were discussed.

On September 26, 1959, Ranger R. J. Moran discovered an infestation of medusa-head covering about one-quarter acre, near Ahwahnee, Madera County. This is the first report of this noxious range grass south of Tuolumne County. Identification was confirmed by Range Technician Harold Wolfram, and specimens collected from the Herbarium of the University of California. Active control measures will be undertaken by the rancher to eradicate this infestation.

## EMERGENCY REVEGETATION

Cooperative agreements with the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District are being processed to seed the Decker Burn in Riverside County. The U. S. Forest Service is also cooperating on the 1,400 acre project.

The Spanish Mountain emergency project in Mendocino County was completed September 24, with the aerial seeding of approximately 800 acres burned by a wildfire in August. This was the first emergency revegetation project in the North Coast area.

## SURPLUS PROPERTY ACQUISITION REPORT - JANUARY 1, 1959, to JUNE 30, 1959

In this six month period the Division received some $28,291.60 worth of equipment and supplies through the State Educational Agency for surplus while paying only $3,920.89. Through General Services Administration, the State paid $2,577.94 for $170,239.89 worth of equipment and supplies.

Altogether the Division paid $6,518.83 for $198,531.49 worth of property and equipment during the last six months.

Since the beginning of this surplus property program, January 1, 1958, the State has realized a savings of $1,041,806.73 by acquiring $1,066,252.84 worth of materials while paying only $24,653.56.

The State also has to pay the California Disaster Office 10% of the service and handling charge for their services. This amounted to $479.07 in the last six months.

Tom Neil spent 289 hours or 36 days on these surplus purchases during the last six months. This does not include the time spent by the typists in his office or the time spent by the District personnel.

## ENGINEERING

The Division of Forestry has now received responses from two commercial trailer manufacturing companies and consequently we are preparing final designs for the trilers which will be needed in the mobile conservation camps.

The initial plot plans are being prepared on the Intermountain Conservation Camp and should be ready for field checking shortly.

Access road and site development work has commenced on the Washington Ridge Conservation Camp. Specifications for the well drilling have been developed and bids are now being solicited.

Final clearance has been received from the Department of Finance for use of forest service land as a site for the Mountain Home Conservation Camp. Site development is now under way in that location.

Acquisition of the Los Gatos Conservation Camp is still pending with negotiations under way with the Department of Finance and the land owner.

## PEACE OFFICER AND VOLUNTARY FIRE WARDEN DESIGNATIONS CANCELLED

The State Forester, on August 3, 1959, cancelled all past appointments of private citizens, members of organized fire departments, and CDF personnel as voluntary fire wardens and peace officers.

Private citizens and members of organized fire departments may be appointed or re-appointed voluntary fire wardens without peace officer designation. CDF personnel will be designated peace officers by class and on an individual basis as determined by the State Forester. U. S. Forest Service personnel may be appointed peace officers upon their appointment as voluntary fire wardens.

The book California Government and Forestry was printed, bound and released by the State Printer on October 1st. The 640 page document embraces the entire story of forestry affairs as affected by government in California from the time of the first white settlers to the creation of the Division of Forestry in 1927. The State Printing Division sells the book for $6.24, including tax and postage.

LETTER TO DIRECTOR NELSON FROM LEONARD M. CONRY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, DATED AUGUST 19, 1959

"It has been my experience, in eight years of criminal prosecution, that seldom are law enforcement officers commended for doing an excellent job. I think that I have processed, prepared and prosecuted in excess of a thousand criminal cases ranging from homicide to the lowest of misdemeanors.

"The case of The People vs DANIEL HUNTER, which was prepared by Mr. Stuart M. Schick and Mr. John F. Ferguson of Santa Rosa, involving violation of Section 600.5 of the Penal Code, is by far the most meticulously and comprehensively prepared case that I have ever seen in our criminal courts and as a direct consequence, having in mind the fire hazard in California, the defendent pleaded guilty.

"I would like to extend my thanks from this office for such dedication to duty.

"Very truly yours,

"/s/ Leonard M. Conry"

BE CAREFUL OF FIRE - by James J. Metcalfe

This week is to remind us of ... The need for constant care ... To guard against the deadly flame ... That might spread everywhere ... Fire has a value great ... As it provides the heat ... To overcome the cold and wet ... And cook the food we eat ...But always it is dangerous ... As anything can be ... Without the slightest warning it ... Can cause a tragedy ... Let us be careful of the things ... We store around our home ... And matches, lighters and the like ... Wherever we may roam ... And if we see a firebug ... Let us report him fast ... So human life and property ... May be allowed to last.

The Sacramento Union

WOMAN LOOKOUT TELLS OF FOREST FIRE TERROR

"Editor: As a lookout attendant for the State Division of Forestry in Sonoma County, I beg of you to help keep our forests green.

"After watching the destruction in our hills east of Stewart's Point, I could not help but write this. A reporter asked if it were not beautiful at night. But his words were not mine. Yes, it is beautiful, if you like destruction. To watch a ball of fire lift into the air, and a few minutes later, hear a voice over the Forestry communication system say "We have another spot a half mile down the canyon" is not beauty to me.

"To most of you a half mile is not far but try that half mile on steep hillsides with fire all around you, crowning the trees and then a new fire on ahead. Fire crews working like mad, equipment everywhere and a 30 mile an hour wind fanning the blaze - hotter and hotter - scattering hot ashes, burning limbs falling, starting new fires in the grass, spreading by leaps and bounds - men and boys working side by side - hour after hour - trying with everything in them to save our trees, buildings and grass lands. Many times but for the grace of God

and the helping hand of the man beside them they have escaped being burned, or death itself. It could be your son, Mr. and Mrs. America -- Now, do you call it beauty?

"Again, I say PLEASE put out your cigarettes, break your matches, use your ash trays and drown your camp fires, and you, Mr. Logger, do a double check or there might be nothing left to log.

"/s/ Viola E. Eldredge
"Oak Ridge Lookout
"Annapolis"

Reprint from Santa Rosa Press Democrat
dated July 14, 1959

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE

Joe Sherman of Orange County believes an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure - or more, and backs up this belief with action.

Sherman was the leading advocate of the "fire danger" clause included in the recently enacted Orange County Ordinance regulating land subdivision. He indicated that some building in the box canyons of Orange County could produce worse disasters than the recent holocaust of Malibu.

By timely action based on knowledge of local problems, Sherman helped to make Orange County a better and safer place to live.

LETTER TO STATE FORESTER RAYMOND FROM KAZUMI KOBAYASHI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BOY SCOUTS OF JAPAN

"Several days ago we gratefully received your letter of July 17 and fine materials on the culture of redwood.

"I thank you most heartily and respectfully for your kind assistance and with much interest, read the explanatory on the two kinds of redwood. I think you have heard from Mr. Brunton, but we were presented the species and are now trying to cultivate the tree. In spite of our efforts, however, the progress has not been good. In Japan the culture of redwood is on its first stage and in this respect, I believe, the materials you kindly sent will be of great help to us.

"Again we greatly appreciate your kindness and hope the young redwood will grow high to the sky in our country as a symbol of international goodwill and friendship.

"With very best wishes.

"Sincerely yours,

"/s/ Kazumi Kobayashi
"Executive Director
"Boy Scouts of Japan"

## HELP WANTED

A position is available immediately for a responsible experienced person or couple to serve as agents for the Nature Conservancy on a beautiful 6,500-acre nationally known nature preserve in northern Mendocino County, California.

It is located in an isolated, heavily forested area with poor roads, no electricity and no school nearby. An unfurnished one-bedroom house is provided, with modern plumbing and good water supply. Home garden plot is available.

Work requires alert and constant watching over an undisturbed wilderness area, patrolling in provided vehicle, meeting authorized visitors and seeing that rules are followed. Applicants must be in good health, conservation-minded, and able to maintain a neat and trim appearance at the Preserve. Heavy labor will not be required. Applicants must be able to accept modest salary. In applying, please give qualifications and references.

Nature Conservancy
Western Regional Office
1711 Grove Street
Berkeley 9, California

## APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT GRADE I

Mr. Frank C. Bechler has been selected for the position of Administrative Assistant Grade I. His history is about as follows:

1943-1953 Employed by Standard Oil Company - Various positions held during ten-year period - General Clerk, Senior Clerk, Head Clerk, Secretary, Personnel Technician, etc.

1953-1954 Administrative Assistant (Business Manager) University of California School of Medicine Radiological Laboratory, San Francisco

1954-1955 Employment Security Assistant - Department of Employment Industrial Office - San Francisco

1955-1956 Junior Staff Analyst (Budget Analyst) Department of Finance

1956-Present Administrative Assistant (Assistant Secretary Merit Award Board)

Mr. Bechler, of course, comes to us without any previous knowledge or understanding of the operations and programs of the Division of Forestry and thus will need your sympathetic understanding for quite a period. We feel confident that Mr. Bechler sincerely desires to be accepted as a partof our organization and hopes to earn your cooperation and respect.

F. H. Raymond, State Forester

The following appointments and transfers have been authorized and completed since the last News Letter was released:

Dwain Gardner appointed Automotive Maintenance Foreman, Fortuna, Humboldt County, effective September 17, 1959.

Paul S. Howlett transferred from the Division of Highways to District I Headquarters, Santa Rosa, as Assistant Civil Engineer effective October 1, 1959.

Clarence W. Mason, Jr., promoted to Forestry Work Project Supervisor, Magalia CDC Camp, Butte County, effective October 2, 1959, replacing Neil E. Edmonds who retired on October 1, 1959.

Robert L. Walton promoted to Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Iron Mine Conservation Camp, Placer County, effective July 1, 1959.

Harold M. Strom transferred from the Division of Highways to the District III Headquarters, Sacramento, as Assistant Civil Engineer on August 17, 1959.

John P. Tomko transferred from Associate State Forest Ranger, Fresno Ranger Unit, to Forestry Work Project Supervisor, Los Gatos Canyon, Fresno County, effective July 31, 1959.

Robert E. Nichols appointed Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Miramonte Conservation Camp, Fresno County, effective September 28, 1959.

Richard E. Miralles promoted to State Forest Ranger I (Camps), District IV Headquarters, Fresno, effective July 31, 1959.

William F. Walker appointed Automotive Maintenance Foreman, San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit, effective September 21, 1959.

Keith K. Schrader promoted to Forestry Work Project Supervisor, Don Lugo Camp, San Bernardino County, effective October 1, 1959.

The following changes were made in the Sacramento-Administration Office:

Lena A. Raner appointed Intermediate Stenographer-Clerk, Engineering Section, effective September 1, 1959.

K. Dale Nafus transferred from the Department of Finance to the Engineering Section as Electrician I effective September 1, 1959.

Darlene C. Jones appointed Junior Typist Clerk, Engineering Section effective September 15, 1959.

James R. Walton, Associate Personnel Analyst, transferred from the State Personnel Board effective September 1, 1959.

Mary B. Williams appointed Intermediate Typist Clerk (temporary), Forest Fire Prevention Education Section, effective September 21, 1959.

LETTER RECEIVED BY HUMBOLDT RANGER UNIT - JULY 25, 1959

"I wish to take this opportunity to thank your Department and to express my appreciation and gratitude to you and the personnel who worked so hard and diligently to put out the fire which was on my ranch at Harris, California. On Sunday--July 19th, 1959, up to and including the future dates.

"Though the fire destroyed much of my ranch, I feel that it would have destroyed much more. But thru your efforts, those of my neighbors, and the M and M Lumber Company of Alderpoint, California. I might not have had a standing building nor anything else.

"Mr. Soto who was on the fire in the beginning, I feel that he did his utmost, as well as all the others. Perhaps it will never be found out how the fire was started, but if the rumors are true sincerely hope that the party is apprehended before he can start any more fires, though no doubt it was not done intentionally. I can only repeat what I heard, and that is a truck with a faulty exhaust or with-out a fire or spark arrester.

"However, I again wish to thank the Division of Forestry and its personnel again. I am.

"Very truly yours,

"s/ Dr. V. C. Simpson
922 E Street
Eureka, California"

A LETTER OF COMMENDATION TO SONOMA RANGER UNIT

"We want to express our fullest appreciation for the outstanding manner in which the Division of Forestry performed on the late "Kelly fire". Having contained it, as intense as it was, in the initial burning period was a fine tribute to the skill of your personnel.

"Very truly yours,
"PAUL B. KELLY TIMBER CO.
"s/ L. M. Kelly
"Mrs. Paul B. Kelly"

FROM HUMBOLDT RANGER UNIT

"On July 12, 1959, the Barnum Fire was discovered and reported to the dispatcher at Fortuna. The access to the area was limited and initial attack time was anticipated to be approximately 1½ hours. After dispatching the initial attack crews, the man doing the dispatching then left for the heliport to meet the 'copter pilot whom he had alerted. With another dispatcher taking over his position, the original dispatcher was en route to the Barnum Fire within a few minutes after the first report of the fire.

"On arrival at the fire, the dispatcher turned fireman, scouted the fire from the air noting the areas needing immediate action to control the fire and also located a spot outside the main fire. The 'copter then landed and the dispatcher-fire boss distributed tools from a twelve-man tool kit brought with the 'copter to the local people who had arrived on the scene. The spot outside the main fire was quickly picked

up and 3/4 of the fireline around the main fire had been constructed prior to the arrival of our first initial attack crews.

"It was with some surprise that the first CDF ground crew on the fire found it manned by locals headed by the dispatcher who had just a short time before initiated their movement towards the fire."

C. W. Fairbank, Deputy State Forester

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

"The Editor
Ukiah Daily Journal

"We wish to extend our thanks to the California Division of Forestry for the prompt and efficient manner in which they protected our home from being destroyed by fire on Monday afternoon August 10, 1959. We had gathered a few personal papers and some clothing and were ready to abandon the house to the flames when a crew of firefighters with a small tank truck arrived.

"They proved by their actions that they had been well trained in fighting fire and that they were under able leadership.

"Sincerely
"s/ Mr. and Mrs. Warren Fowler
Younce Subdivision
Oak Knoll Road"

THANK YOU LETTERS

"Thanks to one of your CDF crews our house was saved. We can't thank your men enough.

/s Rod Shippey
(County Farm Advisor's Office)"

"We wish to thank you for your heroic work done on the fire south and west of Ukiah in the Fircrest area. In particular, accept our thanks for saving the unfinished house on our own property. We thank God also that no lives were lost. Your work is commendable.

"Sincerely,

s/ Ross and Viola Ritchey
409 Walnut Avenue
Ukiah, California."

LETTER TO RANGER SPRINGER, FORTUNA

"Recently, Hampton Plywood Company had the misfortune to have a fire occur near their logging operations on Salmon Creek. Your State Forestry Crews came in and controlled this fire in a minimum amount of time and with the utmost efficiency.

"I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all who took part in the suppression of this fire, and especially to Mr. Harry Prichard, whose proficiency

and cooperation as Fire Boss were excellent.

"It is certainly gratifying to us in the Timber Industry to know that we have such a fine organization as the Division of Forestry, to assist us in the Prevention and Suppression of forest fires.

"Very truly yours;

s/ B. W. Holt
Timber Manager
Hampton Plywood Company
Scotia, California"

HUMBOLDT COUNTY INITIATES AIR PATROL NIGHT FLIGHT

About 10 P.M. on a warm August night the headaches of the Dispatcher were growing steadily worse when, after initiating dispatch action during the afternoon and evening on three major fires, reports of a new fire were received. These reports, coming from travelers on the 299 highway en route to Eureka, were vague as to actual location of the fire. A check with the lookouts brought no additional information as the fire was apparently too small for them to see - or was blind to them. Local reports continued to pour in but still with no definite location by which the fire could be located.

In assembling the information available from the various reports, the Dispatcher was able to determine the following facts:

1. There was a glow from a fire visible from a certain point on Highway 299 somewhere northeast of Eureka.

2. Reports were not in agreement as to the location of this vantage point on Highway 299.

3. Estimates as to the distance from the highway ran from 5 to 20 miles.

4. The direction from the highway was not known as the fire had been reported as both north and south of this highway.

The only conclusions that could be reached were that a small timber fire was burning east of Eureka somewhere in a general area of 50 square miles, with access unknown.

Crews were dispatched but without a definite location it was doubtful if they would find their way to the fire before morning.

Under these circumstances Humboldt County somewhat skeptically initiated its first air patrol night flight. It proved a successful venture in that the observer was able, not only to find the fire, but to pinpoint its location within 20 minutes of take-off time. Using the lights of Eureka and Blue Lake as known points, corrected aircraft compass readings were established between them and the fire was pinpointed on the observer's map.

Once located the initial attack problem was simplified by the observer's knowledge of the area as he outlined the means of access, type of terrain and fuel and other important data relative to the area.

The fire was contained at less than one acre in size.

Joseph C. Springer
State Forest Ranger

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OF STETSON UNIVERSITY, DELAND, FLORIDA

Mr. Don H. Stripeke
California Division of Forestry
2560 West College Avenue
Santa Rosa, California

"I should have written earlier to thank you for the very wonderful job you and your men did on the Annapolis fire during July, but I only returned to my office this week.

"I have always thought of your division as primarily "educational,"--that is, trying to teach fire prevention. In that, I have always thought your department did a good job. Now, first hand observation of the way you and your associates worked at the fire camp near the Phil Campbell mill has convinced me that you also have other serious and important duties.

"Please tell your Chief Forester (I would send him a copy of this letter if I knew how to reach him), that Gualala Redwoods is one property owner that appreciates the devoted attention your men pay to forest fire prevention and forest fire control. The modern techniques you use in fighting fire indicate the efficiency of your department; and if the Legislature of California ever starts talking about cutting the funds allocated for this fire control work, I shall be very glad to write a letter pointing out the economic advantages to the State in providing adequate fire education, patrol and control.

I hope we meet next under more favorable circumstances. However, I did not get to see you after my helicopter ride, so I am taking this opportunity to say thank you again for all the courtesies you showed me--even while you were under great pressure.

Cordially yours,
s/ J. Ollie Edmunds
President"

DISTRICT I PERSONNEL HONOR EMERY SLOAT

Mark West Springs Resort north of Santa Rosa was the scene of a dinner party on the evening of October 2 which was attended by District I personnel and their wives.

The gathering was for a farewell dinner honoring Emery Sloat, who, by virtue of promotion, recently left the greener fields of the northland to take up residence farther south.

We would suggest to you District V people that you refrain from making any wagers with your new boss in matters weatherwise, as Emery was presented with the necessary instruments to accurately forecast the weather. We're not sure, but he may even be able to predict when the trough aloft might begin to spill over.

Mrs. Sloat was also the recipient of a gift from her many friends throughout the district.

The best wishes of District I go with Emery and Pauline to their new location.

C. W. Fairbank, Deputy State Forester

LETTER TO C. E. METCALF

"This is to express our appreciation of the excellent work of State Forest Ranger Jim Stanley, who was the liaison Ranger for the Tehachapi Branch, California Institution for Men to the U. S. Forest Service during the "Dry Fire" operation.

"It was a pleasure to have been associated with Mr. Stanley, and we look forward to working with him again.

Very Sincerely,

E. J. Oberhauser, Superintendent
s/ John W. Kindrick
Correctional Sergeant"

FROM MOUNTAIN HOME STATE FOREST

At Mountain Home State Forest we feel we have a man working for the interests of the State whose work is worth telling about. He is a timber faller for the John C. Lampe of Tulare, a purchaser of State timber. It isn't always the man in the public eye who does a job in the public interest. Marcus Hunter's ability to fall timber and his willingness to use that ability beyond the call of duty to fall trees where they will do the least possible damage to the future timber crops is what makes him worthy of a vote of thanks from present and future generations of Californians. Mr. Hunter, by the way, is one of California's most native "Native Sons," one of the leaders among the people of the Tule Indian Reservation.

Marcus falls as much timber in a day as the next man but is never too busy to plan the "lay" of a tree the way it should go regardless of the amount of wedges and tricks-of-the trade that have to be used to do it. I have seen him make two extra trips back to his jeep for more wedges when he could have felled the tree without using any wedges letting it fall into a few young trees.

Mountain Home's big trees are not limited to Sierra Redwoods. One Sugar Pine cut on the 1959 sale was 92 inches in diameter breast high. This tree had the equivalent of 10 sixteen-foot logs, and scaled 17780 board feet net scale in addition over 2000 bd. ft. cull material.

One such tree stood on the edge of a natural amphitheater that we want to save in its natural condition as a recreational site. The tree was over mature and would not live many more years. But it leaned heavily toward the amphitheater area. Marcus felled all the other marked trees in the general area, but still that tree stood. First he was waiting for a certain windfall tree to be pushed aside so the sugar pine would not break. More days of waiting, but Marcus would not say when he would cut it. Finally one day it was down, lying in an open lane in a direction from the stump that was so far from the direction of the natural "lean" of the tree that it looked impossible. I saw from the stump that he had made full use of his wedges and, in addition, had "held a lot of wood" on one side of the cut and left a "Dutchman" on the other. I complimented him on his falling job.

About all he had to say was, "I sure had to wait a long time for a day with just the right breeze."

Floyd L. Otter
Forest Technician

LETTER TO RANGER R. J. MORAN, MADERA RANGER UNIT

"I want to thank you for the fine work you did for us the night of the fire on the island south of Wildwood Beach on the San Joaquin River.

"We appreciate, so very much, your coming over on the Fresno side of the river to help save our houses but most of all the tons of hay that was stacked there. It was only through your timely work and with others that the hay and buildings were saved.

"There were other fire trucks on the fire besides yours, but I do not know who they were. I wish you would relay my thanks to all the fire units that were there.

"Again thanking you for all you did, I am

Sincerely,
s/ Mrs. W. E. Roberts"

LETTER TO C. E. METCALF

"The Ahwahnee Central Hospital Committee met in regular scheduled session on the 8th of this month. (August)

"At this time they directed me to write to you and express their profound gratitude for the protection you so generously afforded the Sanatorium during the recent forest fire that devasted parts of this area.

Most cordially,

Ahwahnee Sanatorium
s/ S. M. Wagenseller, M.D.
Medical Director & Supt."

KINGS RANGER UNIT

Now that the peak of fire season has passed, three head planning is underway with Ranger C. E. Lindley, Assistant Ranger Luther Routt and F. F. Foreman Jack Bixler.

Ranger and Mrs. Lindley recently spent CTO days doing the town in San Francisco. What a welcome relief from the heat. They returned humming tunes from "Oklahoma", describing that picturesque "Ice Follies", and talking about "The City's" wonderful dining places. Heard they did some Christmas shopping - bet they won't hold out until December.

I guess I take the cake again for the vacation spot farthest away from home. Enjoyed every mile from here to Mexico City.

Kings County Employees Association just borrowed our Supervisor's Hand Book. High hopes of working out a Sick Leave plan similar to that of the State.

The only new thing around here lately is Luther. He seems to be enjoying his assignment over the border.

F. F. Foreman Richard Gilbert of the Redding area (former F.T.D. Hanford Headquarters) came by to say hello.

This is 30 for today. Making up for lost time.

Florence P. Appell
Clerk - Dispatcher

LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL TO C. E. METCALF

"On Friday, August 21, 1959, Charles Threet of Dos Palos lost control of his tractor and double trailers on Pacheco Pass. He then became involved in a seven car accident which resulted in his death.

"We wish to convey our gratitude to Mr. Robert Keepers of the Pacheco Pass Forestry Station in Merced County, Mr. George Newton of the Pacheco Pass Forestry Station on the Santa Clara County side and to all of the forestry members who so ably assisted with the traffic direction and cleaning up at the accident scene.

Very truly yours,
s/ Bradford M. Critten, Commissioner"

MARIPOSA RANGER UNIT

The months of July and August are now behind us, thank goodness! Even though we witnessed one of the larger fires to occur in the Ranger Unit in several years, one has to look back and be thankful. In view of the critical weather conditions and extreme dryness of fuel, the fire situation could have been downright miserable.

In August we completed a 15,000 gallon water storage tank at the Coulterville Forest Fire Station -- looks like it might come in handy next year.

Lynn Bawden, FFTD, and wife, Helen recently welcomed their first child into the household. Son Bradley Bawden weighed in at a whopping 9 pounds 13 ounces.

The Mariposa Fair has come and gone -- and went on record as being a big success. Though the total attendance is small (15,000), the friendly atmosphere, local participation, and enthusiasm, makes it the "big" fair in our book. Assistant Ranger A. W. "Bill Jones was in charge of the booth and Smokey. His able assistants took turns meeting their public -- Foremen Del Brandt, Les Rowe, and Arnold Barth, and Drivers Lynn Bawden, Bob Lewis, and Gerald Jay. Thanks, fellas, for a job well done!

Thomas J. Perkins
Associate State Forest Ranger

DISTRICT IV

District IV was happy to host the California State Board of Forestry on September 17 and 18.

The Board of Forestry and forty representatives of private industry, State, county, and federal agencies toured Mountain Home State Forest as guests of the California Division of Forestry.

Forest Technician Floyd Otter, resident manager for the forest, explained the work being done on reforestation plots, brush and undergrowth control, pruning and thinning practices, and timber sales. Young stands of redwood and pine trees being grown under various tree farming practices, including ways of protecting them from rodents were shown. The campground at Shake Camp was visited, and the proposed improvements explained to the group.

Senior Forest Technician Dean Schlobohm gave a talk during the noon hour telling the history of the forest, what has been accomplished and what the future plans are. Colored slides of Mountain Home State Forest showing how the forest looked in previous years and how the same areas appear today, were used to illustrate his talk.

DeWitt Nelson, Director of Natural Resources, told the visitors that Mountain Home presents one of the finest opportunities for recreation in the State.

During the early part of the trip, Ranger George Phibbs explained how the new all-year Mountain Home Conservation Camp being built below Mountain Home State Forest, will help construct a permanent firebreak between the forest and lower brush areas as part of a pre-suppression fire plan.

The Board of Forestry meeting was held the next day in Dinuba. Alternate Forest Practice plans were presented to the Board for consideration.

Chief Deputy State Forester Moran presented fire plan amendments, consisting of the communications plan that is implemented to some degree at present, but is not shown as part of the fire plan. An interim air attack plan was presented to the Board for consideration.

E. P. Ivory, representing forest land ownership on the Board of Forestry, hosted the Board meeting in Dinuba, and invited Board members and visitors to tour the Ivory Pine Company sawmill.

Deputy State Forester Cecil Metcalf entered the Fresno Community Hospital on September 10 for an illness caused by blood poisoning from a redwood sliver embedded in his right thumb. Metcalf proved to be allergic to the antibotic given to arrest the infection, which complicated his illness. He is expected to be back to active duty about the middle of October.

Assistant Deputy State Forester Howard Moore is managing the district as Acting Deputy, with Senior Forest Technician Dean Schlobohm acting as Assistant Deputy, until Metcalf can return to this desk.

H. E. Moore
Acting Deputy State Forester

ANDREW B. MILLER DECEASED

With deep regret we announce the passing of Forest Fire Lookout Andrew B. Miller.

Brownie, age 61, served as lookout on Red Top for the past six years. His death was discovered September 11 when he failed to answer the phone in the tower.

Brownie made many friends in the mountain area of Madera County during these years and his services were certainly a credit to the Division.

Having no survivors, arrangements were made by CDF personnel and burial was at Arbor Vitae Cemetary, Madera.

R. J. Moran
State Forest Ranger

MORE FROM KINGS COUNTY

The King unit hunters started the season with dove limit after dove limit. Next on the agenda is deer. Ranger and Mrs. C. E. Lindley each drew for the special hunt and each made it! That's a first time for them.

F.F.F. Jack Bixler just returned from a tour which included Yellowstone Park, Crater Lake and Virginia City. Needless to say both he and Mrs. Bixler are extolling Dame Nature's beauty.

Dick Nevins, California State Department of Education Instructor in Fire Training, was by to complete plans with Assistant Ranger Luther Routt for training here in November. The subject selected is Fire Strategy.

We're down to our last crop - cotton. All the major crops have been harvested, "saucered and blowed." This puts us in clover now as far as agricultural fires go.

A straw vote proved our exhibit at the Kings County Fair was one of the most attractive displays presented. The "Sawmill" was an eye catcher. A display of mounted birds was an added educational feature.

Hope by the time this reaches the printer, Mr. Metcalf will be fully recuperated and back at his desk.

How nice to receive bouquets in September ! I quote:

Letter from Bates T. Bowers, Secretary Manager of the Kings County Fair to Ranger C. E. Lindley - "The following is a resolution passed by the Board of Directors of this Association.

Upon a motion made by Director McDowell, seconded by Director Burris, and carried unanimously, the secretary-manager was instructed to express the appreciation of the Board of Directors of this Association for the excellent assistance Mr. Curt Lindley gave us during the Fair. It was noted that Mr. Lindley did an outstanding job in all ways. His willingness to fill in anywhere is appreciated and he is without peer in his public relations work for the Fair.

To this may I add my personal thanks, because I was the most benefitted by your fine cooperation. It is gratifying to know that an outstanding citizen, such as you, takes an interest in our Fair to the extent that you do."

Following Mutual Aid assistance to the City of Hanford during a fire that destroyed the California Furniture Manufacturers, an excerpt from the editorial column of the Hanford Sentinel:

"The firemen from all over Kings County who fought the big fire proved again the value of training, experience and generous portions of bravery in protecting community life and property. They worked in the grand tradition.

"Firemen take risks the ordinaryman would never take; they walk into danger, they stand where others fear to stand. This they must do. They cannot fight the fire from the next block.

"When a fire comes the firemen are appreciated. Other times you may not hear much about them.

"Yet they are busy all the time, working with their equipment, studying and perfecting their skills.

"Then, when needed, they are able to do a workmanlike job. We couldn't get along without them."

Florence Appell
Dispatcher-Clerk

DISTRICT VI

Gone but not soon to be forgotten is Ranger Jack Burke, District VI Fire Control Coordinator and a District HQ work horse for the past dozen years. Most "Sixers" will remember him for his high sense of humor and good nature, while those of us who worked more closely with him will remember him also for his ability to make decisions and his amazing capacity to accept added work assignments. Your gain, El Dorado, is our loss.

Also departed and returning to the north are Ranger Roy Neil, Conservation Camp Coordinator, and Oak Glen Conservation Camp Supervisor Ed Schuckert. Roy Neil's many years of CDF experience and the practical knowledge gained thereby went far towards solving the day-to-day problems of our operating camps, including also the acquisition and construction of two new camps during his southern tour of duty. Ed Schuckert's high standards and leadership abilities have placed his Oak Glen units among the top firefighting crews of Southern California.

All three of these men were toasted at a farewell dance on the first week-end of August in Sab Bernardino County clubhouse. The County managed to hold off its weekly week-end campaign fire until after the party; Then the Lake Gregory "Stable", 12,177 acres, took off. The County has had one every week-end for five in a row, some not accidental, and then missed the sixth week-end by only two days. However, Riverside County took over that particular week-end.

During one of the mid-week lulls, we sent 100 men to District IV to help on Mariposa's Nelson's Cove - 12,000 acres. They thus missed out on our own 12,000-acre fire the following week-end.

Speaking of the air, Foreman Chuck Hicks and Bud Sherbundy are flying high this year. They are our "Mr. Drop-Go", who talks the TBM and F7F in. Foreman Frank Williams is again going for the ride, grinding away with the camera. July and early August were rough months for lightning, and it is believed the planes have already earned their summer fare.

It is with regret that we announce the death of FFTD Arnold Seidler. Seidler had worked in Orange County and was on compensation due to a heart attack.

Doug Glenn, Dispatcher

The Decker Fire started August 8, at approximately 6:12 P.M. This fire burned 1,600 acres and was caused when a pickup truck went over the Ortega grade and burst into flame, killing the driver. The passenger was injured and burned. Both were young men.

Extreme burning conditions and severe turbulence were apparent. Within two hours, twenty-two men had been burned with varying degrees of severity. At this writing five of these men have died. Included were a U. S. Forest Service District Ranger, a Forest Service Guard Station Foreman, and most recently, three firefighters from the El Cariso hot shot crew of the Cleveland National Forest. There were eight other U. S. Forest Service men burned in addition to the fatalities.

The U. S. Forest Service accident occurred about 8:00 P.M. Prior to this incident six California Division of Forestry men from the Temecula Station were burned at about 6:45 P.M., when they were caught in a flare-up on the Oretega grade, which is west of Lake Elsinore. Most seriously burned is Forest Fire Truck Driver John Guthrie. His condition is still listed as critical but he has shown some improvement. Forest Fire Truck Driver Ray Shannon was seriously burned and is now at Redlands Community Hospital with Firefighters Eugene Golding and Larry Mollers. Firefighters Bill Price and Monty Campbell were released after treatment for burns. Drivers Guthrie and Shannon, each with a truck and two firefighters, were burned and their trucks scorched when caught in a flare-up on the highway seconds after a spot fire flared and raced up and across the highway.

Three Conservation Camp inmates from Puerta La Cruz Camp in San Diego County were also burned in a third incident that occurred at approximately 7:45 P.M. This incident occurred on the highway near the foot of the Ortega grade and the burns were less serious in nature than the above-mentioned men.

These were three separate incidents: The California Division of Forestry men at approximately 6:45 P.M., the Conservation Camp men at approximately 7:45 P.M., and the U. S. Forest Service incident at approximately 8:00 P.M. All occurred in Decker Canyon but at widely scattered locations. Extreme conditions and severe turbulence combined to make unpredictable and erratic fire behavior, which has been the rule this year rather than the exception.

<u>Normal safety precautions are not enough this season.</u>

Jack T. Skeels
Associate State Forest Ranger

<u>ORANGE COUNTY</u>

Following is a letter directed to Ranger Scherman and signed by Mike Wimbush. Mike Wimbush is the individual who was selected by the Society of American

Foresters, Southern Section, to represent Southern California at the Jr. Logging Conference held at Mendocino Woodlands on May 3 - 6, 1959.

We were very proud to have Mike selected for this honor inasmuch as he also represented our Forestry explorer group that is sponsored by the Orange County Ranger Unit. The following letter is a report back to Ranger Scherman covering some of his experiences while in attendance at the Jr. Logging Conference.

C. M. Downs

"Dear Mr. Scherman:

"I would like to inform you regarding my trip to the logging conference at Mendocino Woodlands, May 3-6 when I represented our explorer group.

"I learned a great deal about human nature. I met many interesting people and had an enjoyable time observing them. From my observations, I learned how to be friendly and attractive to others.

"On the trip I was deeply appreciative for the way in which I was looked after by the Council. They always had something interesting to explain to me and made me feel very much at home.

"First of all, I arrived in Mendocino at 6:00 P.M., Saturday. That night I attended a banquet in which I was introduced and conversed with many important forestry men. From them I learned about the friendly rivalry between the various forestry departments. This didn't end with the rangers either, the northern boys had fun kidding me about freeways, smog, and subdivisions. It was all very amusing. The next day I rode out with Mr. Campion, the secretary of the regional conservation council, to the woodlands. There I enrolled and participated in the afternoon logging contests. A boy from Santa Rosa and I upheld our respective school's honor by fairing well in the two-man log bucking.

"The meals at the convention were "ole hardy" meals and no one left the mess hall hungry.

"That night we heard an excellent speaker who talked on America and loyalty to our country. His talk was often highlighted by humor which added to its interest. The jokes he told were very amusing.

"The following day, Monday, we took a field trip where we learned all about tree farming, plot thinning, tractor safety, all phases of logging, and the use of a plane in conjunction with the forestry. The field trip was highlighted by watching the felling of a douglas fir which contained about 20,000 board feet. Another added attraction of a different type was a fight for seats by all the boys in the over-crowded bus. After the first stop I learned to wait outside of the bus until the fight ended and all seats were occupied, then I entered without damage or attack and sat on the floor.

"That night we had an informative talk on forestry which brought out the future in forestry. The evening program was concluded with a skit put on by some local high school boys, which humorously critized the foresters' typical day's work. The night was topped off by a fire hose water fight between two local spirited high schools. I never found out which school won.

"The next day we took a trip to the saw mill where we saw all the phases of preparation, sawing and grading of timber. We also saw the museum which had a picture history of logging in that part of the country. Then we returned to camp, most of us with headaches and dented helmets, caused by head tapping--a favorite game on the bus.

"After lunch we saw all the phases of fire fighting, and we all got to hold a fire hose and water a few trees. We then saw a splendid picture on tractor safety which illustrated how important tractor safety was and what the results was when safety was ignored. We then heard a speaker on tree planting, soils, and the grading of lumber. The afternoon program was concluded by a chain saw demonstration.

"That night we heard a very informative panel discussion on forestry in which all phases of forestry were discussed. The next day we packed and then saw a movie on aerial photography which was very interesting, as were all of the pictures which we saw. I left the woodlands at 2:00 P.M. and arrived home at 9:00 P.M., thanks to air travel.

"In all, the trip was very interesting and educational and was more exciting than I had anticipated. My only wish is that every boy from our group could have attended.

"Thank you ever so much for your helpful advice.

Sincerely,
s/ Mike Wimbush"

OAK GLEN FORESTRY CONSERVATION CAMP

On the Pendleton Fire near Yucaipa in San Bernardino County on Sunday afternoon, July 12, four Oak Glen Crews responded.

The brush fire burned near several houses and had the residents somewhat concerned over the immediate danger.

The public apparently has many varied perspectives of the California Division of Forestry's activities. The next morning things had calmed down considerably about the fire and when two of the Oak Glencrews were relieved from the line nearest the dwellings a note was delivered to the Foreman of one of the crews from an 8-year old girl, which read:

"Dear Friends:

"Thank you for helping us and staying to watch over us all night.

"Love,

Jan"

Edward Schukert
Forestry Work Project Supervisor

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1959 - DISTRICT VI

Heavy fire load kept us from getting our June-July News Letter in on time. Now we'll try for August and September.

Fires quieted down, even in San Bernardino County, after mid-August, and things were almost stagnant in September and early October. Hope we don't have another change in November.

New to the District is ASFR Ted Dean, up from Foreman in District II. Promoted were Associate Ranger Tom Henson to Ranger Grade I, and Trainee Keith Schrader to Forestry Work Project Supervisor. Congrats to the three.

Dougas M. Glenn, Dispatcher

FOLLOWING LETTER RECEIVED BY RANGER JAMES FENLON

Fire Chief
Ramona Airport
Ramona, California, USA

"Our local paper "A Tribuna" brought on the 23rd an interesting photograph with a short commentary on the experience which you and the County Forest Authorities have made with "bentonite".

"I should appreciate a more detailed technical information on this new extinguishing agent and the way it attacks flames.

"Perhaps you will be able to tell me something about the adaptations which had to be made in the airplane, and about the motives which led you to experiment this interesting method of fire fighting. What were the results?

"Cordial thanks from a colleague.

Yours very truly
s/ Lieut. Joao Bidin
Fire Coordinator
Refinaria Presidente
Bernardes - Caixa Postal 1149
Santos, S.P., Brazil"

TO ALL EMPLOYEES

Today, September 14, John Guthrie, Fire Truck Driver for California Division of Forestry, died of coronary arrest. Five weeks ago, this 25-year-old man, with five years of experience in fighting fire, was critically burned on the Decker Fire. He, along with twenty-five others -- U.S. Forest Service and Division of Forestry men--at three separate locations and within an hour-and-a-half period were engulfed in flames. Five of the men who were burned preceded him in death, and others are still being treated medically.

Why do such things happen to experienced firefighters? Three years ago on the East Highland Fire, John Guthrie was on the fireline near where two men were severely burned because of unpredicted fire behavior. He, personally, analyzed these men's actions and proceeded to gain fire experience with the determination that such

miscalculations were not going to happen to him. What went wrong?

Just because a man has been fighting fires a long time does not mean that his experience is all inclusive. There is a great difference between repetition and experience. Fire behavior is a phenomenon based on many factors--vegetative cover, amount of green and dead material; weather, the amount of moisture and humidities; winds, turbulent or directional; topography, steepness and exposure--each factor affecting fire behavior on a continuum basis. In Southern California, fire behavior is difficult to predict because of the relationship of these factors.

After fighting fire in Southern California for thirty years, on the De Luz Fire of 1949, Ranger Ed Miller observed tornadic conditions of such intensity, whirlwinds up to 1,000 feet across, were an action never before observed by him, showing that even the most experienced men are faced with new phenomena. There is a period where a somewhat experienced firefighter can become overconfident because of repetition of fighting fires. Each individual is cautioned to recognize that this can happen to him. Where two individuals of somewhat similar experience are questioning the safety factors in their control tactics, the factor of the greatest margin for safety to the men should prevail. Each individual must not underestimate these fires. Treat them with the utmost caution and respect. A strategic retreat, or a delay in action, to insure that you have sized up the burning conditions before making an attack is definitely a part of fire control.

When fire behavior is such that it is unfamiliar to the individual, that individual must consider that the action of the fire is his first warning and take no risks without being directed to do so by his superior officer, who has greater experience and knowledge. Whirlwinds, erratic size of flames, spotting, all are keys in determining the severity of burning conditions. Alertness, and the full attention to conditions at hand, as well as being prepared for emergencies, are all a must in this fire game. It is axiom that we do not get ourselves in a position where we cannot make a quick retreat, either away from the fire front or into a burn. Each man is his own safety officer. Fire is a dangerous thing. In its control, calculated risks often must be taken; but the margin of risk must be held to a minimum so that there is no loss of life.

James K. Mace, Deputy State Forester

WORKING HOUR CHANGES - SACRAMENTO

After a discussion period covering several years, definite changes have been made in the working hours of the downtown Sacramento State employees. These changes have been deemed necessary due to the increased traffic load at the peak hour of five P.M., Monday through Friday. It is believed this traffic congestion at 5 o'clock can be relieved by staggering the working hours of State employees in the downtown area.

The entire Department of Natural Resources, with the exception of the Division of Beaches and Parks, will start to work at 7:45 A.M., with 45 minutes for lunch and quit at 4:30 P.M. Thus, it will be necessary for any of the Districts wishing to contact anyone in the Sacramento office to do so within the hours set forth above. This new regulation, of course, does not affect the District III office of the Division.

This schedule goes into effect on November 16, 1959, and will continue on a permanent basis.